

AUG 24 2007

Application Serial No. 10/666,883

CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A process for using an association between a service provider resource and a fixed identifier to allow resource requestors to consistently access a service provider resource without being affected by changes to the service provider resource, the process comprising the steps of:

a central server receiving a resource information request from a resource requestor concerning a service provider resource;

extracting a fixed service provider resource identifier from said resource information request, said service provider resource identifier having a one to one correspondence with said service provider resource;

providing a resource information database resident on said central server that contains cross references from service provider resource identifiers to service provider resource information, said database containing resource information for all service providers within the central server's area of responsibility, said resource information for each resource comprising at least a universal resource locator (URL) and substantive descriptive information concerning the resource, said substantive descriptive information comprising a description of the resource; and

said central server accessing said database using said extracted service provider resource identifier and retrieving service provider resource information comprising at least a universal resource locator (URL) and substantive descriptive information concerning the resource and comprising a description of the resource from said database;

wherein said central server verifies said resource information request before returning the retrieved service provider resource information.

2. (original) The process of Claim 1, wherein said central server's area of responsibility is locality, assignment, or trust based.

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3. (previously presented) The process of Claim 1, wherein said service provider resource identifier is a universal resource identifier (URI).

4. (original) The process of Claim 1, wherein said central server returns the retrieved service provider resource information to said resource requestor.

5. (cancelled)

6. (original) The process of Claim 1, wherein said resource requestor uses the URL from the retrieved service provider resource information to access the resource from the service provider.

7. (original) The process of Claim 1, wherein said resource requestor uses the retrieved service provider resource information to display the resource description to a user.

8. (currently amended) A process for using an association between a service provider resource and a fixed identifier to allow resource requestors to consistently access a service provider resource without being affected by changes to the service provider resource, the process comprising the steps of:

a service provider site receiving a resource information request from a resource requestor concerning a service provider resource;

extracting a fixed service provider resource identifier from said resource information request, said service provider resource identifier having a one to one correspondence with said service provider resource;

providing a resource information database resident on said service provider site that contains cross references from service provider resource identifiers to information concerning associated resources of said service provider, said database resource information for each resource comprising at least a universal resource locator (URL) and substantive descriptive information

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concerning the resource, said substantive descriptive information comprising a description of the resource; and

said service provider site accessing said database using said extracted service provider resource identifier and retrieving service provider resource information comprising at least a universal resource locator (URL) and substantive descriptive information concerning the resource and comprising a description of the resource from said database;

wherein said service provider site verifies said resource information request before returning the retrieved resource information.

9. (previously presented) The process of Claim 8, wherein said service provider resource identifier is a universal resource Identifier (URI).

10. (original) The process of Claim 8, wherein said service provider site returns the retrieved resource information to said resource requestor.

11. (cancelled)

12. (original) The process of Claim 8, wherein said resource requestor uses the URL from the retrieved resource information to access the resource from the service provider.

13. (original) The process of Claim 8, wherein said resource requestor uses the retrieved resource information to display the resource description to a user.

14. (currently amended) An apparatus for using an association between a service provider resource and a fixed identifier to allow resource requestors to consistently access a service provider resource without being affected by changes to the service provider resource, the apparatus comprising:

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a request reception module on a central server configured to receive a resource information request from a resource requestor concerning a service provider resource;

an extraction module configured to extract a fixed service provider resource identifier from said resource information request, said service provider resource identifier having a one to one correspondence with said service provider resource;

a resource information database resident on said central server that contains cross references from service provider resource identifiers to service provider resource information, said database containing resource information for all service providers within the central server's area of responsibility, said resource information for each resource comprising at least a universal resource locator (URL) and substantive descriptive information concerning the resource, said substantive descriptive information comprising a description of the resource; and

an accessing and retrieval module, configured to access said database using said extracted service provider resource identifier and to retrieve service provider resource information comprising at least a universal resource locator (URL) and substantive descriptive information concerning the resource and comprising a description of the resource from said database;

wherein said central server verifies said resource information request before returning the retrieved service provider resource information.

15. (original) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said central server's area of responsibility is locality, assignment, or trust based.

16. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said service provider resource identifier is a universal resource identifier (URI).

17. (original) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said central server returns the retrieved service provider resource information to said resource requestor.

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18. (cancelled)

19. (original) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said resource requestor uses the URL from the retrieved service provider resource information to access the resource from the service provider.

20. (original) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said resource requestor uses the retrieved service provider resource information to display the resource description to a user.

21. (currently amended) An apparatus for using an association between a service provider resource and a fixed identifier to allow resource requestors to consistently access a service provider resource without being affected by changes to the service provider resource, the apparatus comprising:

- a request reception module on a service provider site configured to receive a resource information request from a resource requestor concerning a service provider resource;

- an extraction module configured to extract a fixed service provider resource identifier from said resource information request, said service provider resource identifier having a one to one correspondence with said service provider resource;

- a resource information database resident on said service provider site that contains cross references from service provider resource identifiers to information concerning associated resources of said service provider, said database resource information for each resource comprising at least a universal resource locator (URL) and substantive descriptive information concerning the resource, said substantive descriptive information comprising a description of the resource; and

- an accessing and retrieval module, configured to access said database using said extracted service provider resource identifier and to retrieve service

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provider resource information comprising at least a universal resource locator (URL) and substantive descriptive information concerning the resource and comprising a description of the resource from said database;

wherein said service provider site verifies said resource information request before returning the retrieved resource information.

22. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said service provider resource identifier is a universal resource identifier (URI).

23. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said service provider site returns the retrieved resource information to said resource requestor.

24. (cancelled)

25. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said resource requestor uses the URL from the retrieved resource information to access the resource from the service provider.

26. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said resource requestor uses the retrieved resource information to display the resource description to a user.